

The Business Case for Hiring Vets

By Susan H. Burnell

Hiring and transitioning veterans into the workplace strengthens any organization. With only minimal effort and cost, more companies are becoming veteran friendly. Employers are finding loyal, dedicated and highly motivated leaders among the nation's veterans and active members of the National Guard and Reserve. They are also finding incentive to hire veterans and better resources for locating them.

A Trained, Ready and Proven Source of Talent The Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) within the U.S. Department of Labor (DoL) has been raising awareness about the value of hiring veterans since the 1980's. VETS is also launching new initiative to increase engagement with employers, with a particular emphasis on the private sector. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis has made veterans' employment one of her top priorities. "Veterans are peak performers. In today's economy, employers know they have to get their hiring decisions right. Veterans are proven sources of talent. They can provide an immediate bottom-line benefit because they are already credentialed, and their skills have been shaped and tested under the most challenging circumstances," says Solis. Some employers may not be aware that 80% of all jobs in the private sector had a correlation in the military. This fact opens some eyes, says Ray Jefferson, VETS Assistant Secretary. "The military produces surgeons, scientists, engineers, photographers, technicians and many other skilled workers.